A true

NARRATIVE

Of the PROCEEDINGS AT THE

Seſſions-Houſe,

Holden for *London* and *Middleſex*,
At Juſtice-hall in the *Old-Bayley*,
On the 28, 29, and 30th of *June*, 1676.

Setting forth the Tryal and Condemnation of a Man for having two Wives, and four more, two men and two women, for Felonies and Burglaries, the two women being Convicted before, and lay for Tranſportation.

Likewiſe the Tryal of the Boy that ſhot the Man in *Fleet-ſtreet*; and of the Sexton for killing the man on *Aſcenſion-day* laſt; with the Tryal of ſeveral other Malefactors for ſeveral Crimes.

With an Account how many are Condemned, how many burned in the Hand, to be Tranſported, and to be whipt.

Publiſhed for general ſatisfaction.

Licenſed, *July* 1. 1676. *Roger L'Eſtrange.*

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A true Narrative of the Seſsions.

THis Seſſions began at Juſtice-Hall in the *Old Bailey*, on *Wedneſday*, the 28*th.* of *June*; on which day a great number of Malefactors were Arraigned and Tryed for ſeveral Crimes; particularly,

A Sexton was Indicted for killing a man; the buſineſs hapned thus, The Boys being abroad in Proceſſion, the Priſoner led one party, and meeting with thoſe of another Pariſh, who had a Pariſh Clarke going before them, theſe two Leaders fell out about the Bounds and Limits of their reſpective Pariſhes, and ſeveral words of heat and paſſion having paſt between them, the Priſoner ſuddenly ſnatcht a Cudgel from one of his Boys, and laid the other Man over the Head with it, ſo unlucky a blow, that he fractured his Skull, whereof he ſhortly after died: there were a multitude of Witneſſes examined, which made the Trial very tedious; but after a full hearing, the Jury brought it in Manſlaughter.

Another perſon was tried about the Death of a Man, who upon a quarrel went by conſent to a Fencing-School, to play two or three Hits at Backſword; but it was the Priſoners ill luck to hit his Adverſary a little too ſeverely, ſo that it was alleadged that the Blows occaſioned his Death, which in ſome time

after happened; but it not being ſufficiently proved that this was the real cauſe, the Priſoner was acquitted.

A Boy was Caſt for his Life for Felony; he came privately into a Gentleman's houſe in St. *Giles*'s, and hiding himſelf had ſtoln a Silver Tankard, and two Silver Spoons; but the Maid diſcovering him, he ſilly ſet the Tankard down again, and flinging down the Maid, got out of the houſe and fled; but ſhe making purſuit after him, found he was got into an Ale-houſe by *Red Lion* Fields, where he was at firſt denied, but upon ſearch diſcovered; yet had time enough to diſpoſe of the Spoons, which were found in the next Room; and becauſe they were not taken about him, he had the impudence to plead Innocency: But though he were but young in years (not above Fourteen) yet it appeared he had been an old Thief, having been burnt in the Hand in *February* laſt; ſo that he was found Guilty.

The next was an object of Pitty, a little Boy about *Twelve* Years of Age, newly come to be an Apprentice at a Shop in *Fleet ſtreet*, about the *Sixteenth* inſtant *June*, being about the time when the Trained Bands of *London* went out to Muſter, finding in his Maſters Dining Room, up one pair of Stairs, a Muſquet which had been in uſe upon that occaſion, had a Childiſh deſire to be doing ſomething like a Soldier; and to try whether the Piece were charged or not, put the Gunſtick into the barrel;

Barrel; and perceiving there was a Charge in it, ſcrap'd together ſome looſe corns of Powder ſcattered on the Table, and put them into the Pan; but being ſuddenly called down by his Miſtriſs, to ſerve ſome Cuſtomers in the Shop, aſſoon as that buſineſs was diſpatcht got up again, and having forgot that he had left the Rammer in the Barrel, goes towards the Balcony, and fires the Muſquet at random into the Street, in the middle of the day: and ſo unfortunately it happened, that an antient Citizen paſſing by over the way at that inſtant, the aforeſaid Gunſtick driven by the force of the Powder gave him a mortal Wound in the Back, a little below the left Shoulder; ſo that immediatly falling, before or almoſt aſſoon as he could be taken up and got into the next Shop, he died, being only heard to pronounce theſe words, *Ah Lord! I am killed ---- I am a dead man.* In the mean time the Boy little thought what miſchief he had done, and was only troubled at the loſs of the Gunſtick, which he miſſed aſſoon as he had diſcharged the Piece. But many people hearing the report of the Gun, and ſeeing from whence it proceeded, preſently ran thither to enquire; going up ſtairs they finde the Boy with the Gun, who confeſſed he had ſhot it off; but when they told him, he had killed a Man, he ſtruck his hand on his Breaſt, crying out, *Ah! What ſhall I do, I am undone:* teſtifying that he did not intend or imagine any hurt to any Creature, and expreſſing much ſorrow for the ſame, as he did now likewiſe upon his Tryal. Some pieces of the Gunſtick were produced

in

in Court by the Chyrurgeon, which were taken out of the Gentleman's Heart. The Jury could do no leſs than bring it in Manſlaughter; the Court having declared their opinion before, that under theſe Circumſtances it muſt be more than Chance-medley, ſince he ſhot off the Gun premeditately and voluntarily, though the killing the Man was accidental.

A Woman received Sentence to be preſſed to Death for refuſing to plead, not only the laſt Seſſions, but continuing now in the ſame obſtinacy, though ſeveral times importuned by the Court not to caſt away her Life, being only charged with ſtealing of Plate; upon which it found Guilty, ſhe might at worſt have had the favour of Tranſportation; but in kindneſs to ſome *Cronies* in Goal, whom ſhe would firſt have releaſed, ſhe continued ſtill reſolute not to take any Tryal, unleſs they might be diſcharged; whereupon the Court proceeded to pronounce Judgment againſt her as aforeſaid.

There was a long Tryal upon a Writ of Reſtitution againſt a Quaker, who it ſeems out of pure Conſcience to gratifie himſelf and friends by under-ſelling his Neighbours, had been moved to trade in ſtolen goods, there being no leſs than one hundred and fifty dozen of Kid-leather Gloves (as was teſtified) bought by him of a Thief and his wife at twelve ſhillings a dozen, within theſe three years laſt paſt; for which the Jury brought in Eighty pounds againſt him: uponwhich 'tis odds if he do not amongſt his party make a ſad complaint of grievous Perſecution.

A Country-fellow was tried for having two Wives; the

the firſt he married neer *Tame* in *Oxfordſhire*, and liv'd with her ſeveral years, and had two pretty children (a Boy and a Girl) which were brought into Court to ſee the wickedneſs of their Father: After that he left that Wife, and at *Harrow on the Hill* married another, whom only he was pleaſed to own in Court; ſo that there needed no proof on her behalf: and as for the firſt woman ſhe proved her marriage by the Clerk that was preſent, and by her Mother and ſeveral others, who teſtified a long Cohabitation, *&c.* ſo that he was found guilty, but ſeemed not much to lay that to heart, flattering himſelf with coming off by his Clergy, but in vain; for when afterwards he came to the Book, the Ordinary returned a *Non legit*, and he received ſentence of death with the reſt.

Two women Convicts detained in Newgate in order for tranſportation, for their ſeveral Crimes, had laid a plot according to the uſual Policy of that place, to get a little money before they went (for we have ſcarce charity enough to think 'twas out of pure Conſcience) which was, to ſend to ſeveral perſons whom they had formerly robbed, acquainting them that they could inform them where the things loſt were diſpoſed of; and accordingly upon a treaty and a ſmall ſpill in hand, and ſomewhat more promiſed, they did, naming two others to whom, as they ſaid, they had ſold the things ('twas moſt Plate) at very underrates, as Silver Tankards at Three Shillings the Ounce, and the like; and freely confeſſed ſeveral Circumſtances of themſelves being concerned in the Felony, imagining that after his Majeſties Pardon,

or rather Remiſſion or change of the Sentence of Death into Tranſportation, they could not here have been called to any account for paſt Crimes; but the Court made them ſenſible of their miſtake, by aſſuring them, that only extended to the Facts for which they were then convicted, and now they were arraigned for theſe Felonies of their own Confeſſion; and ſo unluckily it happened, that both the perſons they brought into trouble as Acceſſaries were now acquitted, and themſelves caſt as Principals.

Another Fellow, living about *White Chappel*, was Indicted for having two Wives; but only the laſt, whom he owned, appeared, who having told her Story, and being commanded out of the Court, briskly beckned her hand to her Husband, as he ſtood at the *Bar*, and cryed out aloud, *Come Jonne, come away with me*; and indeed he might, if he had but paid his Fees, and a mind to it, ſoon after follow her; for he was neceſſarily brought in not guilty, when no body was to accuſe him.

Several other Felons, *&c.* were tryed, which would be too tedious to relate: upon the whole matter; there were five that received Judgment of death, Three Men and Two Women; Seven burnt in the Hand; Four begg'd Tranſportation; and Three to be whipt for Petty Lacerny: And ſo the Seſſions ended with the Moneth.

FINIS.